

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06920 181847Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 EB-07 INR-07 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 SCA-01  
SCS-03 FMC-01 DLOS-09 OES-07 SS-15 NSC-05 CPR-01  
/072 W

-----190724Z 066530 /17

R 181620Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7545  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6920

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CVIS, OCLR, UR, US  
SUBJ: SHORE LEAVE FOR CREW OF US MERCHANT VESSELS

REF: (A) STATE 107646, (B) LENINGRAD 0568

1. PALADICH, DEPUTY CHIEF OF FOREIGN RELATIONS DIVISION OF SOVIET MINISTRY OF MERCHANT FLEET, TELEPHONED CONSOFF MAY 17 TO SAY THAT CREW OF US TANKER MANHATTAN, WHICH ARRIVED IL'ICHEVSK MAY 8 HAD NOT YET RECEIVED SHORE LEAVE BECAUSE CREW LIST VISA NOT YET RECEIVED BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES. PALADICH SAID THAT MR. ZHAVAD, SHIPPING ATTACHE AT SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON, ISSUED VISA APRIL 27, BUT SHIPPING COMPANY DID NOT MAIL IT, ACCORDING TO PALADICH'S INFORMATION, UNTIL MAY 4. PALADICH SAID THAT HE HAD REQUESTED SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN ODESSA TO GIVE CREW SHORE LEAVE AND EXPECTED IT TO BE GRANTED WITHOUT PROBLEM.

2. AS PALADICH EXPLAINED SOVIET CREW LIST VISAS PROCEDURES, US SHIPPING COMPANY MUST SUBMIT CREW LIST TO SOVIET EMBASSY, RECEIVE VISA, THEN TRANSMIT VISAED LIST TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN SOVIET UNION. SOVIETS REQUIRED TO TAKE NO ACTION BEYOND ORIGINAL SUBMISSION OF CREW LIST.

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3. ON MAY 18, E/C COUNSELOR CALLED IGOR AVERIN, PALADICH'S SUPERIOR, TO ASK WHY ISSUANCE OF VISA HAD NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT SINCE IT WAS DONE MORE THAN SEVEN DAYS IN ADVANCE OF SHIP'S ARRIVAL. COUNSELOR SAID THAT MARITIME AGREEMENT APPEARED TO REQUIRE NO ACTION BY SHIPPING COMPANIES ONCE CREW LIST VISA GRANTED. AVERIN FIRST ASSERTED IT WAS A "SIMPLE MATTER

OF RECIPROCITY" BUT THEN ARGUED THAT MANHATTAN HAD ARRIVED ON APRIL 30 OR MAY 1, THAT IS , WITHINSEVEN DAY PERIOD. HE SAID LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ILI'CHEVSK HAD FOLLOWED REGULATIONS SOMEWHAT FORMALISTICALLY. COUNSELOR INQUIRED WHY SHORE LEAVE HAD NOT BEEN GRANTED BY THIS LATE DATE IF SHIP ACTUALLY SO LONG IN PORT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS SOVIET OBLIGATION TO INFORM OWN AUTHORITIES THAT CREW LIST VISA HAS BEEN GRANTED.

4. AVERIN DID NOT DEMUR ABOUT SOVIET RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM OWN AUTHORITIES ONCE VISA GRANTED BUT NEITHER DID HE CLEARLY ACKNOWLEDGE IT. HE SAID HE WISHED TO DISCUSS GENERAL SITUATION WITH SOVIET PORT AND IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES, AND THEN SIT DOWN WITH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES TO CLARIFY PROCEDURES.

5. AVERIN SAID HE THOUGHTSITUATION IN ILI'CHEVSK HAD BEEN RESOLVED ON "AD HOC BASIS."

6. COMMENT: WHILE AVERIN'S CLAIM THAT SHIP REACHED PORT ON APRIL 30 CONFUSES OTHERWISE CLEAR ISSUE - WE SUSPECT PALADICH HAD THE CORRECT DATE - RECENT CREW LIST VISA PROBLEMS SEEM TO INDICATE THAT SOVIET PROCEDURES ARE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE DIFFICULT TO COMPLY WITH THAN US PROCEDURES. EMBASSY ISSUES VISA AND NOTIFIES APPROPRIATE INS AUTHORITIES TELEGRAPHICALLY. WE INTEND TO POINT OUT TO SOVIETS THIS DISCREPANCY WHEN WE MEET WITH THEM AT THEIR REQUEST. MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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